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Image  
265  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN





# ERIK LARSEN & TODD McFARLANE

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## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Back in the city, Al Simmons begins maneuvering his way as a human and not Hellspawn, making 'friends' with a group of men he meets at a boxing gym. Meanwhile, a demon named Decay begins terrorizing and killing unsuspecting victims in the city. Terry enlists Al's help to protect the citizens from this deadly monster. Using his old military training, Al tracks Decay and a dramatic fight ensues. At first, it seems he will not be able to fight this deadly monster, but he knows if he doesn't defeat Decay, then he will go on terrorizing the city. The final standoff between Al and Decay happens on the edge of a large building. Al gets the creature so angry he lunges at him. Simmons moves out of the way and the monster tumbles to his death.



I KNOW IT WAS JUST  
A SMALL SCRAP OF  
COSTUME I CAME BACK  
WITH... BUT IT  
SCALED-UP TO FIT MY  
BODY WITHOUT MUCH  
EFFORT. I ASSUMED IT  
WAS NEARLY HEALED.

\* issue 260 (when he  
returned from Hell) -- Todd

INSTEAD IT'S BEEN  
ACTING WITHOUT ANY  
RHYME OR REASON. AND  
I **SURE AS HELL** CAN'T  
CONTROL IT!



IT'S TRYING... STRUGGLING  
TO GROW. STRUGGLING  
TO GET STRONGER.

BUT IT'S **NOT EVEN**  
CLOSE TO BEING  
READY. THAT'S  
A PROBLEM.



IT'S BEEN TWO  
WEEKS -- I THOUGHT  
IT'D BE MORE  
ADVANCED THAN IT IS.



WHICH MEANS EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN PLANNING GETS PUT ON HOLD UNTIL I KNOW WHAT I'M DEALING WITH. AND THE BIZARRE THING IS, IT WON'T RESPOND THE WAY I WANT... OR EVEN COME CLOSE TO DOING WHAT IT USED TO. BUT NOW IT'S DOING SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN.

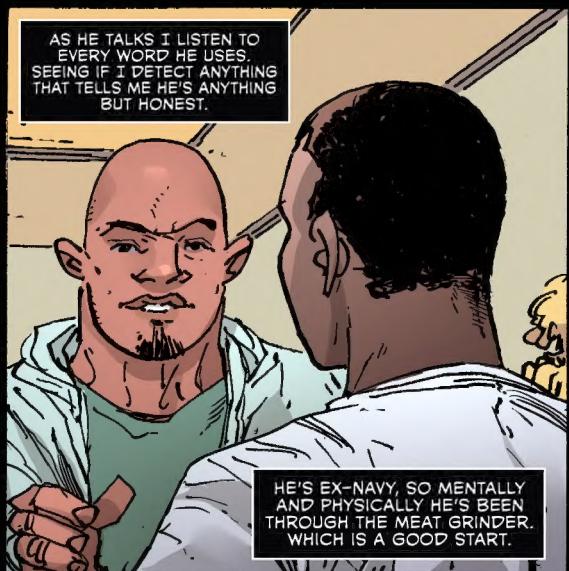
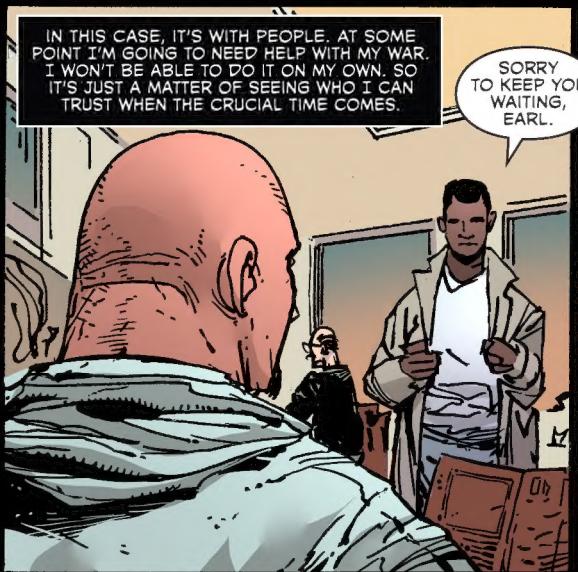
LIKE IT'S TRYING TO WALK... ON ITS OWN.

SO, NOW I'VE GOT TWO THINGS I'M TRYING TO JUGGLE. TESTING THE COSTUME'S LIMITS AND STAYING ALIVE IN THE PROCESS. I GUESS I HAD TAKEN FOR GRANTED ALL THESE YEARS THAT I'D BE PROTECTED SOMEHOW. NO MATTER WHAT SHIT STORM CAME MY WAY.

AND I WAS SO READY FOR THEM. I HAD MY PLAN--I FINALLY KNEW WHAT THE RULES WERE AND HOW TO PLAY THEM. THEN THEY KILLED WANDA\*. THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING. BEFORE I COULD EVEN START. IT WAS LIKE THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME.

AFTER ALL MY TIME AWAY, THEY WERE SOMEHOW STILL WAITING FOR ME. LIKE **THEY KNEW** I WAS COMING BACK.\*\*







BECAUSE IF I'M GOING TO WIN  
THIS WAR I'M ABOUT TO  
FIGHT... I'M GOING TO NEED  
**ALLIES.**

**BRAKKATHOOM!**

SINCE HIS RECENT RETURN, AL SIMMONS HAS BEEN LIVING IN A SMALL, UNIMPRESSIVE APARTMENT BUILDING. A PLACE WHERE HE CAN ASSESS HOW TO MOVE FORWARD IN HIS PERSONAL 'WAR.'

THE HOPE WAS FOR HIM TO BE ABLE TO "LAY LOW" UNENCUMBERED BY OUTSIDE INFLUENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PROBLEM HASN'T BEEN IN TRYING TO KEEP THE OUTSIDE AWAY, IT'S BEEN AVOIDING THOSE ON THE INSIDE. SPECIFICALLY, SOME OF THOSE LIVING IN THE BUILDING WITH HIM.



LIKE THIS GUY.

HIS NAME DOESN'T MATTER. HE'S JUST A PUNK WHO'S ALWAYS THOUGHT THE WORLD OWED HIM SOMETHING. IT'S NEVER CROSSED HIS MIND THAT HIS LIFE IS A BY-PRODUCT OF HUNDREDS OF SHORT-SIGHTED DECISIONS.

INSTEAD HE ASSUMES HE CAN DO WHATEVER 'FEELS GOOD' AT THE TIME. WHICH IS WHY HE'S NOW—UNINVITED—INSIDE AL SIMMONS' LOFT.



SO HE THOUGHT HE'D TAKE A CLOSER LOOK HIMSELF. WHEN HE FOUND A SUITCASE HE PRAYED IT MIGHT BE THE ANSWER TO HIS DREAMS...



IN WHATEVER FORM THAT MIGHT BE.



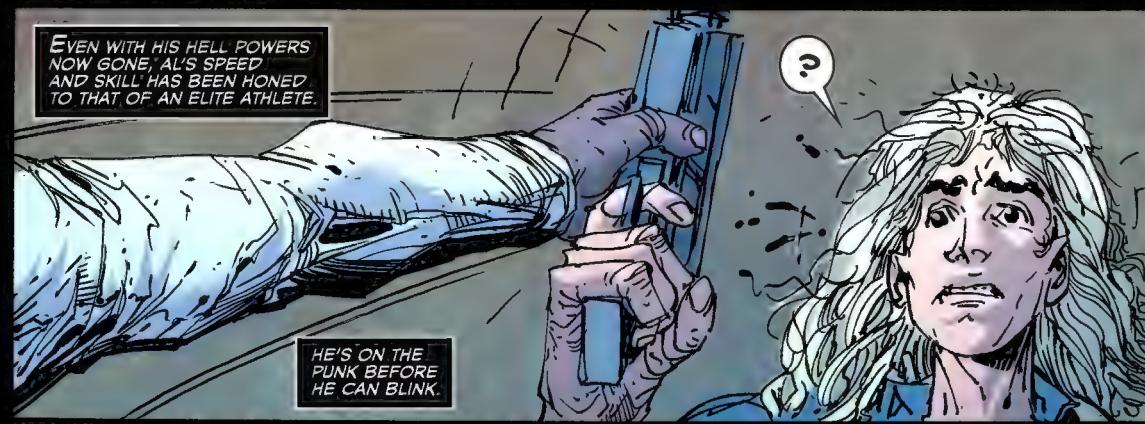
CASH BEING THE BEST FORM!

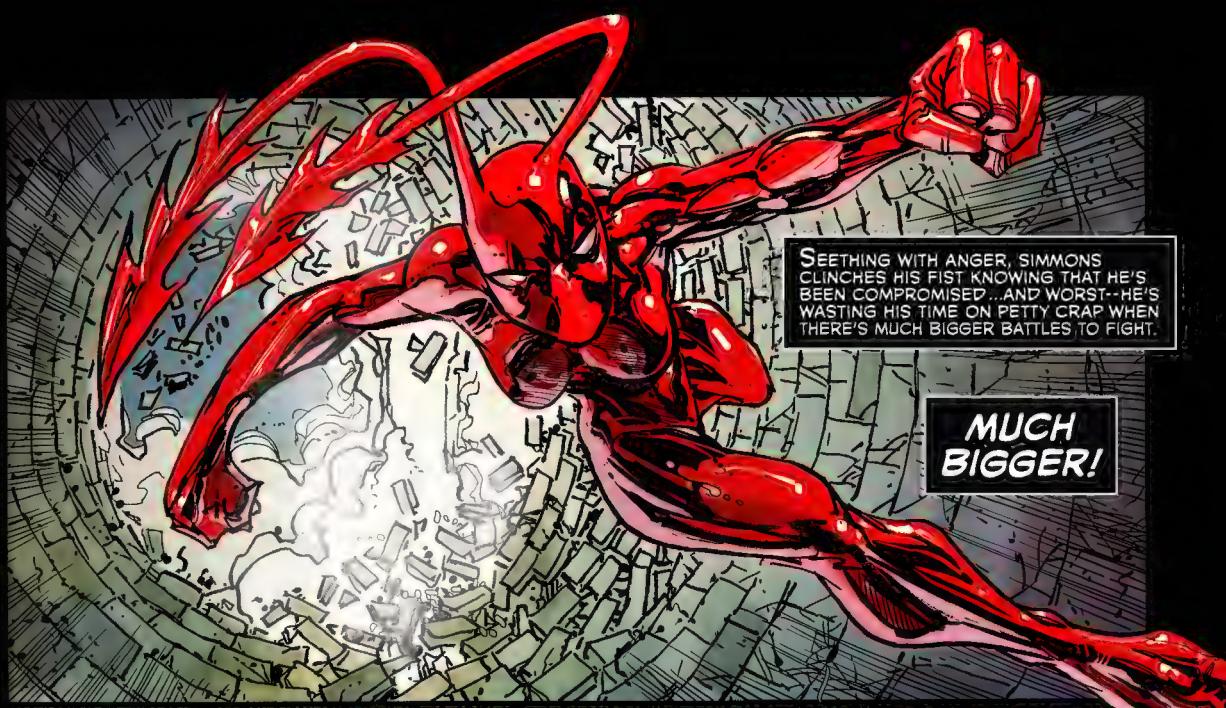


EVEN WITH HIS HELL POWERS NOW GONE, AL'S SPEED AND SKILL HAS BEEN HONED TO THAT OF AN ELITE ATHLETE.

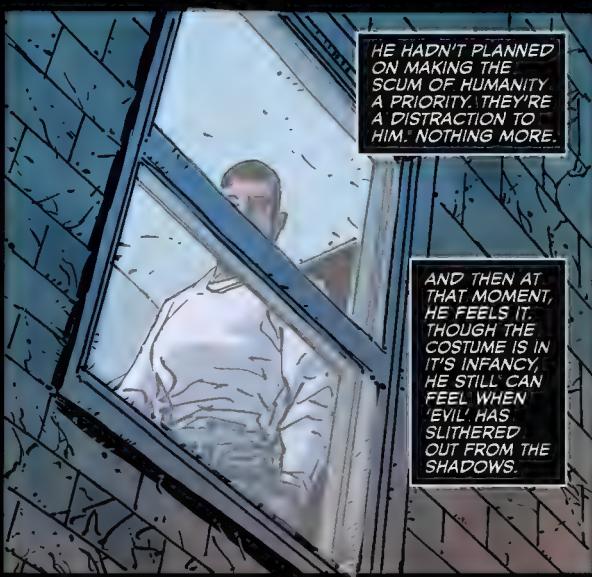
HE'S ON THE PUNK BEFORE HE CAN BLINK.

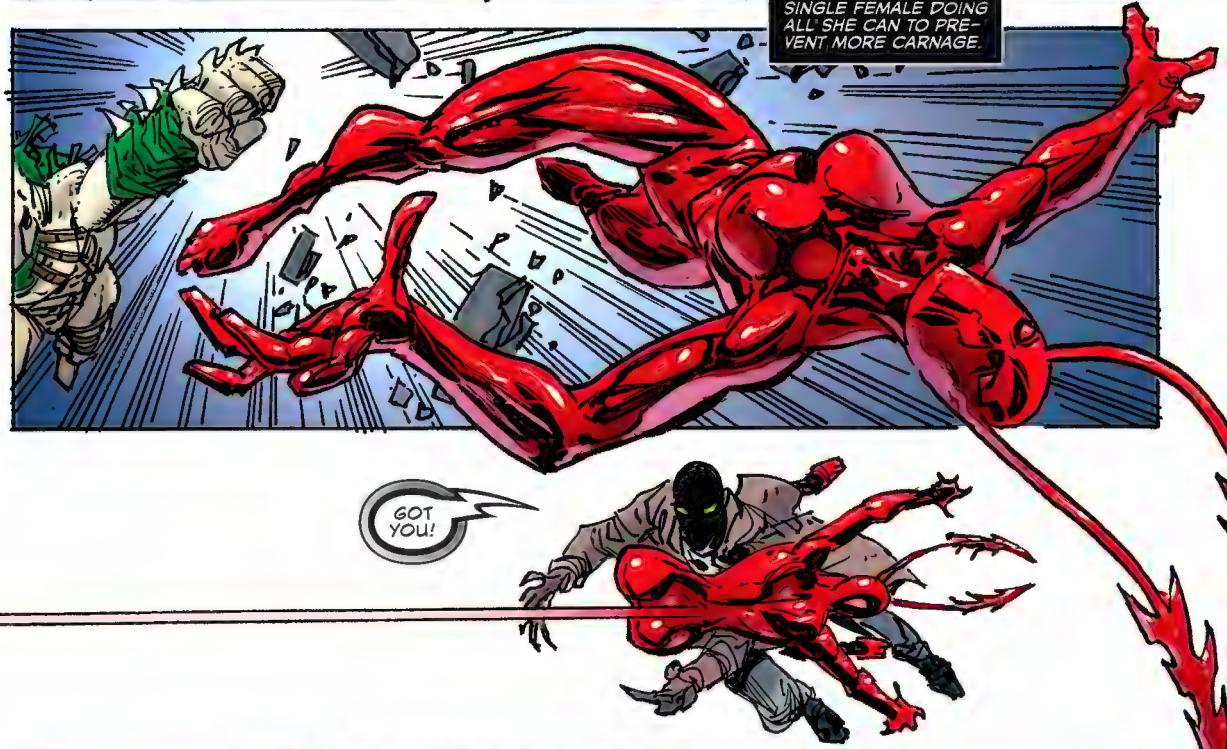
?





# CHOOOM!





A QUICK EXPLANATION THAT SHE HAS HEARD ABOUT THE ACTIONS OF SPAWN OVER THE YEARS. AL IS UNINTERESTED IN KNOWING HOW OR WHY HE'S FOCUSED SOLELY ON STOPPING WHATEVER IS KILLING ALL THESE PEOPLE INSTEAD.

WHAT?

THEY WANT THE RAPTURE. THAT WHOLE BIBLICAL THING.

THESE ARE MAD MEN WITH POWER AND MONEY AND DRIVEN BY THEIR OWN SENSE OF MORALITY.

HIS NAME IS KING SPIDER. HE'S PART OF A CONSORTIUM THAT WANTS TO BRING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD!

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THEM FOR A YEAR. AND BEFORE YOU ASK, I KNOW NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM DANGEROUS...

WHAT'S THEIR PLAN?

TO POISON THE WATER SYSTEM OF EVERY MAJOR CITY IN THE U. S., STARTING HERE IN NEW YORK.

THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT HUMAN LIFE!

INCLUDING THEIR OWN!

AND SO... AL'S TEST  
STARTS!



HUMANS.

CRAZY SHITS.

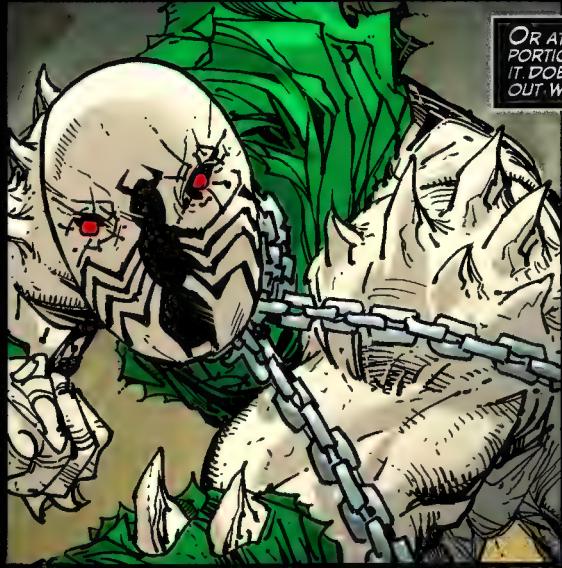
SUPER-VILLAINS.

DEMONS.

ANGELS.

HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO  
EVENTUALLY DEAL WITH  
THEM ALL! THIS--WHAT  
HE SEES IN FRONT OF HIM  
TONIGHT--IS JUST THE  
**BEGINNING!!**



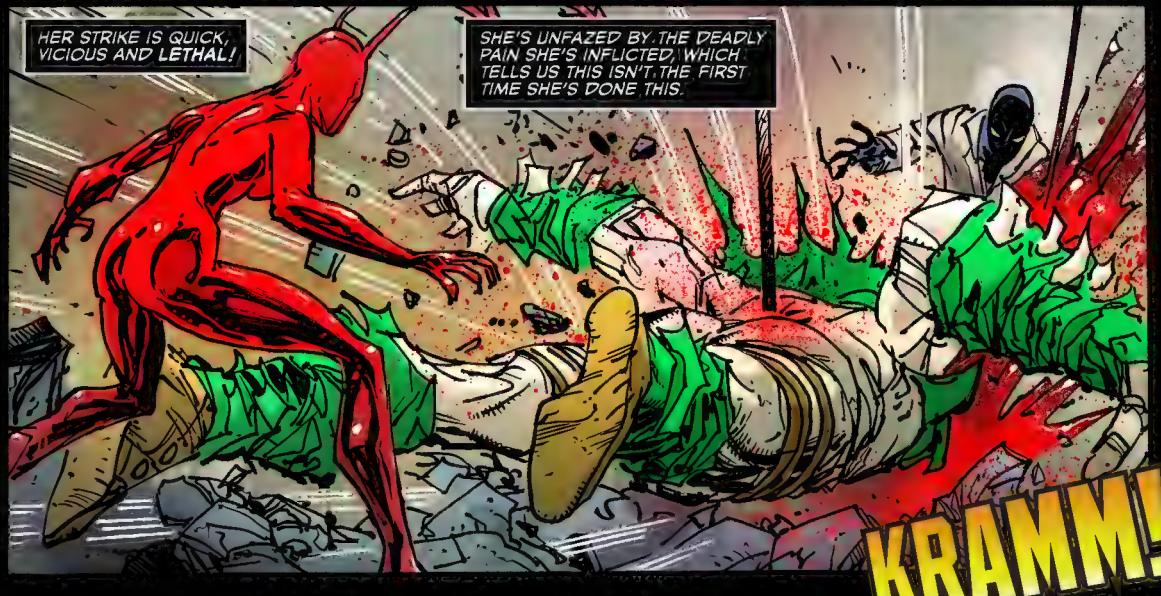


OR AT LEAST... HE NEEDS A PORTION OF IT TO RESPOND. IT DOES, AS CHAINS LASH OUT WITH PRECISION.



AND SO HAND TO HAND IS ALL THAT'S LEFT.





WHICH POSSIBLY  
MAKES HER VERY  
VALUABLE TO SPAWN'S  
FUTURE PLANS.

THANKS.

FOR  
THE  
HELP.

FROM WHAT  
I HEAR, YOU'D  
HAVE DONE THE  
SAME. SO DON'T  
SWEAT IT.

BY THE  
WAY, THEY  
CALL ME  
THE ANT.

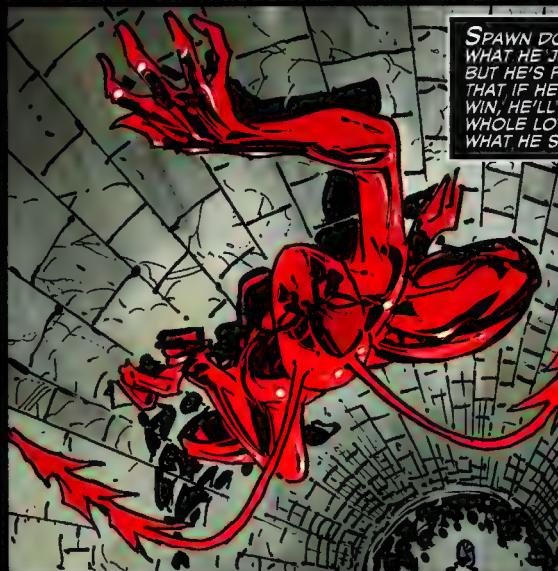
NO  
DIFFERENT  
THAN YOURS,  
I SUSPECT. I  
RISK MY LIFE  
TRYING TO MAKE  
SURE THINGS  
LIKE THIS DON'T  
TOUCH ALL  
THE NORMAL  
FOLKS.

ANT?  
OKAY.

SO...  
WHAT'S  
YOUR  
STORY?

DIDN'T  
DO SUCH A  
GREAT JOB OF  
THAT TODAY... AND  
WHAT'S WORSE?  
THERE'S MORE, LOTS  
MORE, WHERE HE  
CAME FROM. WE  
COULD USE  
SOME EXTRA  
MUSCLE.

WE?





## EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?

A mysterious man appears — with no background, no memory and no place to call home. But he has powers that resemble those we learned about in Sunday School. Is it possible that he is our 'SAVIOR' in the flesh? And if he is, then why doesn't he know who he is or how he got his unique abilities?

Some will see him as a hero...or more. Others will see him as an enemy with God-like powers, here to disrupt the status quo of what we already believe. Many will rally behind him, while many others will denounce him. But none of us will be able to ignore him.

Written by industry greats **Todd McFarlane** (*Spawn, Spider-Man, Hulk, Haunt*) and **Brian Holguin** (*Spawn, Spawn: The Dark Ages, Kiss*) and beautifully painted by fan favorite artist, **Clayton Crain** (*Ghost Rider, X-Force, Carnage, Rañ*), **SAVIOR** will give you something to believe in... but is it what you expected?

The **SAVIOR** trade paperback collects the entire 8-issue mini-series into one thick volume — that's 40 extra pages for free — all for the same low price as a regular trade paperback.



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# SPAWN|NG GROUND

Hello all!

I hope you found this issue as exciting, and enjoyed it as much as I did! For those of you who may not know, this latest issue actually sets up next month's awesome SPAWN/SAVAGE DRAGON crossover! Erik's art is starting to roll in, and from what I've already seen, it is going to be an UNBELIEVABLE issue! Be sure to look for *Spawn* #266 and *Savage Dragon* #217 at your local comic store!

And as always, if you are not following Todd on social media, what are you waiting for?! He has practically taken over Facebook with all of his LIVE videos as of late! The videos range from drawing tutorials, giveaways, sneak peaks of upcoming products, and naturally... Todd drawing cool stuff! Even though I get to see Todd draw everyday (humble brag, I know), it still amazes me to see him turn a few squiggly lines into a work of art! Oh, and did I mention these videos are LIVE?! So who knows what else can happen? We've also added two channels to our YouTube page of Todd's tutorials and drawings, yet another stop to get all things McFarlane! Be sure to follow Todd at [facebook/likeToddMcFarlane](https://facebook.com/ToddMcFarlane) and [@Todd\\_McFarlane](https://twitter.com/Todd_McFarlane).

This week Todd went to Twitter with this question: "What villain would you like to see make a comeback?" (I know he's done this question before, but he's cooking something up for the upcoming issues!!) Thanks for all the great responses online! See you next month!

Cheers,  
Shannon Bailey  
Publishing Coordinator



## What villain would you like to see make a comeback?

The Redeemer  
@JeremyMegertArt

Cy-Gor  
@DesertPunkDwarf

Malebolgia  
@Raccoonrox

Billy Kincaid  
@robsonink

Bludd. Did we ever see him outside of Image Zero?  
@dzolondek

Echoing Chapel  
@sunchick8

Overtkill  
@kev\_toons

I want to see a disturbed philosophy teacher who justifies his murder of his students...Then Spawn kills him.  
@TomasHennerfors

Donald Trump  
@roc\_an\_rol

Anti-Spawn  
@Bizarnage

Mammon  
@CJTheArchitect

Chapel would be a great challenge for Al now that he no longer has powers.  
@OrisonSTARBOY

Something new  
@bullseyext2

The Redeemr. Heap was always interesting too.  
@chiodos\_13

The Freak  
@EnigmaHLM

I was a fan of Curse  
@D\_E\_M\_O\_N\_I\_X



**NEXT ISSUE**  
Spawn/Savage Dragon crossover!



**SPAWN KILLS EVERYONE!  
IN STORES NOW**

IN A.D. 1220, HELL COMES TO EARTH

# LAKE OF FIRE™

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DOUBLE-SIZED FIRST ISSUE

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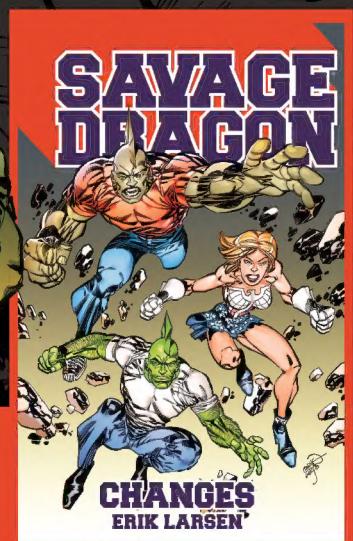
# ERIK LARSEN

## SAVAGE DRAGON™

MONTHLY  
ISSUES



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(a)(b)(c) The  
(e)(f) Black Monday  
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